Dr. V. K. JOHN :—" Have the Government fixed the time during which their services are at the disposal of the public and at which time they cannot charge a fee? If so, what are the hours?"

The Hon. Dr. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Hours are all fixed when they have got to be in their office rooms and people are entitled to go and demand the services of the doctor at that place at the specified hours."

Dr. V. K. JOHN :—" Are the Government aware of the public feeling that when Government doctors who are paid salaries by the Government charge fees which are considered extortionate, the Government become unpopular?"

The Hon. Dr. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I am aware of it, Sir."

Janab ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI :—" According to the regulations mentioned by the Hon. Minister, what is the maximum amount of fee to be charged by a doctor?"

The Hon. Dr. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I want notice of the question, Sir."

Provision of roads in villages.

* 97 *Q.*—Sri M. NARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether many of the villages in the Province become isolated, especially in the rainy season, as they have not even earthen roads to link up to the main roads;

(*b*) whether the Government have under consideration in their road programme to provide every village with a good earthen road to link up to the major road;

(*c*) if so, in what time it is proposed to complete the programme; and

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the Highways Department have not paid any attention to the construction of roads in panchayat and non-panchayat areas?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The information[a] asked for is placed on the table of the House."

Sri M. NARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether the Government think that the completion of the programme is possible in view of the financial position of the Government?"

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" That is exactly the question which we have to examine and which I cannot answer now."

Sri M. NARAYANA RAO :—" Will the Government give priority at least to this one scheme?"

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" There are several schemes which would need much higher priority than this scheme."

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[a] Printed as Appendix I on pages 1068–1069 *infra*.

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—" Have rural problems got any priority with the Government? Do the Government feel that rural roads demand higher priority than roads in urban areas? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Rural problems are certainly being given all the attention that they should have, but rural problems do not mean only rural roads."

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—" Have the Government any comprehensive scheme of rural development including rural roads? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" As I have said, we have already framed a comprehensive programme which will serve a wider area and we hope to carry it through."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Do not the Government think roads are necessary for the agriculturists to carry their produce to the nearest market? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" There is no doubt about it."

Alleged irregularities in the election to the Madras Medical Council.

* 98 *Q.*—DR. P. S. SRINIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state— 2–45 p.m.

(*a*) whether a Special Officer was appointed by the Government to enquire into the representations made by Dr. Venkappa and others regarding alleged irregularities in the conduct of election to the Madras Medical Council held in 1946;

(*b*) the expenses incurred by the Government by the appointment of the Special Officer and his staff, office equipment, etc.;

(*c*) whether the report of the Special Officer was received by the Government; and

(*d*) if so, whether that report will be placed on the table of the House?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (*b*) Rs. 2,255–8–0.

" (*c*) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (*d*) The report is confidential and it is not desirable in public interest to disclose it."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether action will be taken on the report of the Special Officer? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Yes, certainly, Sir."